

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

7A-35-0

Orleans

N

EAS.293

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Campground Road
Area

Photograph



Address: 670 Campground Road

Historic Name: George Williams House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: [1913-1917]

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Concrete block garage/shed (1930s, Photo 3)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

New windows, enclosure of front porch (dates unknown)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.50 acres

Setting: This property is located on a level, square parcel on the north side of Campground Road. The surrounding area includes early-20th century cottage lots, and the area is now built out with modest cottages and houses from the early-20th to the early-21st centuries. This house is set fairly close to the street. The parcel is informally landscaped with lawn and a dirt parking area in front of a detached garage.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

670 CAMPGROUND ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N

EAS.293

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The form of this one-story Craftsman cottage consists of a rectangular main block with a low-pitched hip roof. There is a broad hexagonal bay on the right (east) side elevation and two smaller hexagonal bays on the left (west) side elevation. The house appears to rest on a low concrete block foundation. The elevations are clad in weathered wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles with projecting eaves that have exposed rafter tails. A brick chimney rises from the right roof slope.

What may have begun as an open porch is set under the front roof slope of the main hip roof. This element is now fenestrated with paired slider windows. A wood belt course that spans the front elevations of the former porch suggests that it was originally enclosed by a shingled half-wall. The remainder of the house appears to have a mix of wood, single-glazed 2/2 and 6/6 windows. The main entrance is located off-centered on the front elevation with a wood, 6-panel door.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay in Orleans and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

This property is connected to the cottage development around Campground Road - one of the three earliest roads to extend west to Cape Cod Bay from the central sections of Eastham. Despite the early development of the road, which was established to serve the Methodist camp meetings in the mid-19th century, the great majority of houses that border it, especially to the north, are 20th-century vernacular summer cottages and retirement houses.

One of the early subdivisions at the west end of Campground Road was recorded in 1912 by Alonzo K. Higgins. Eastham-born Alonzo K. Higgins (1846-1918) married Elizabeth W. Rogers (1847-1923) in Orleans in 1870. He was listed as a farmer in census records throughout his life, but he was also very active in cottage development in the early-20th century.

The 1912 subdivision consisted of 34 "Cottage Lots" on the north side of Campground Road that included what is now the southern portion of Bay Road and West Shore Drive (Figure 2).¹ Four large parcels were aligned along the bay while smaller lots with 75-

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 2/ Page 123.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

670 CAMPGROUND ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N

EAS.293

foot frontages were crowded in the interior. All but one of the bay parcels have been divided into smaller lots; and some of the small interior lots have been combined.

This property occupies Lots 2 and 3 of the 1912 subdivision. In 1913, Alonzo Higgins sold those lots to George Williams of Eastham.² The MHC Form B for William's own house at 46R Bow Road (EAS.763) provides the following narrative:

Almost nothing has yet been learned about George Williams before he came to Eastham. He was probably the George Williams of North Woburn who visited North Eastham in March 1910; a man of the same name camped in Eastham in April 1913, and he was living in Eastham by June that year. He might have built for himself a one-room house about this time. In 1920 Williams was listed as an unmarried 66-year-old farm laborer in his own household, enumerated just after the home of Russell and Harriet Higgins. One 1925 article described the garden he had created near "a small house which he built for himself close by" on Eastham's bay side. A reporter for the Boston Transcript noted that Williams "'puts heart in flowers, proving that the lonely male is not as cold as he appears," and he quoted Williams to have said, "Just to prove that bachelors have hearts I will show you," and escorted the reporter to a heart-shaped bed in his garden bordered with two rows of quahog shells and planted with bachelor's buttons. The Transcript noted that Williams used only seaweed from the bay to fertilize his garden, which included in addition to bachelor's buttons "blossoms of every kind and color, massed in many-shaped beds outlined with rows of white quahaug shells.... He does not bother to raise vegetables, or to sell his flowers; what little money he needs he earns from time to time."³

George Williams built the cottage here at 670 Campground Road sometime between 1913 when he purchased Lots 2 and 3 and 1917, when he sold it, now with reference to a dwelling house, to Elizabeth (Wise) and Oliver L. Austin of Tuckahoe, NY.⁴ According to his obituary on *The Report Dispatch*, Dr. Oliver L. Austin (1871-1957) received his medical degree from Columbia University and practiced for over 60 years. Shortly before his death, he had been named outstanding general practitioner of the year by the New York State Medical Society.

In 1943, they sold this cottage to Hortense Y. Hewson of Dorchester, MA. Carl Edwin Hewson (b. 1918) married Hortense Young (b. 1916) in 1940. As of the 1950 census, Carl Hewson was working as a proprietor in the plastics fabrication industry. In 1971, Hortense Hewson sold this cottage to George E. and Mildred R. Drew of Norwood, MA.⁵ The property stayed in the Drew family until 2001, when Michael G. Drew of Port Richey, FL sold it to the current owners, Robert R. and Catherine C. Giapponi of Wallingford, CT.⁶

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1910 Map, *Atlas of Barnstable County*, Boston, MA: Walker Litho. & Publishing Co., 1910.

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. Deeds, Land Court Records, and Subdivision Maps.

Barnstable Patriot Archives. Sturgis Library Digital Newspaper Archive,
<https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/APA/Sturgis/#panel=home>.

Dunham's 1929 Eastham (Mass.) Street Directory.

Larson Fisher Associates. Campground Road MHC Area Form EAS.N, 2005.

Larson Fisher Associates. MHC Building Form, 46R Bow Road, 2020.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Reconnaissance Survey Report: Eastham." Typescript, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, 1984.

Town of Eastham Tax Commitment Books. 1902-57.

United States Geological Survey. Aerial Survey 1938-2020,
<https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/cape-cod-chronology-viewer/>.

www.ancestry.com - Vital records.

² Book 330/ Page 86.

³ "Seen and Heard by Uncle Charles," *Hyannis Patriot*, 30 July 1925, 2, quoted from K. K. Crosby, "Bachelor's Buttons on Cape Cod," *Boston Transcript*.

⁴ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 352/ Page 303.

⁵ Book 1519/ Page 898.

⁶ Book 25594/ Page 156.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

670 CAMPGROUND ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N

EAS.293

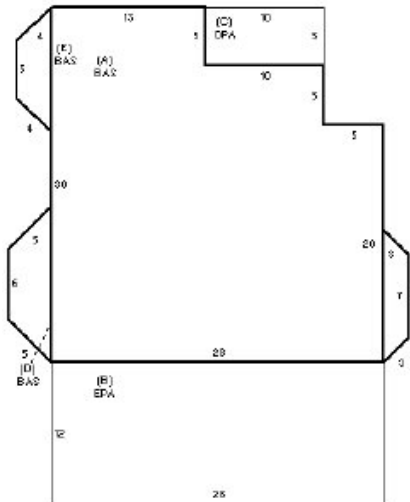


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View looking northeast.



Photo 3. View of garage, looking north.

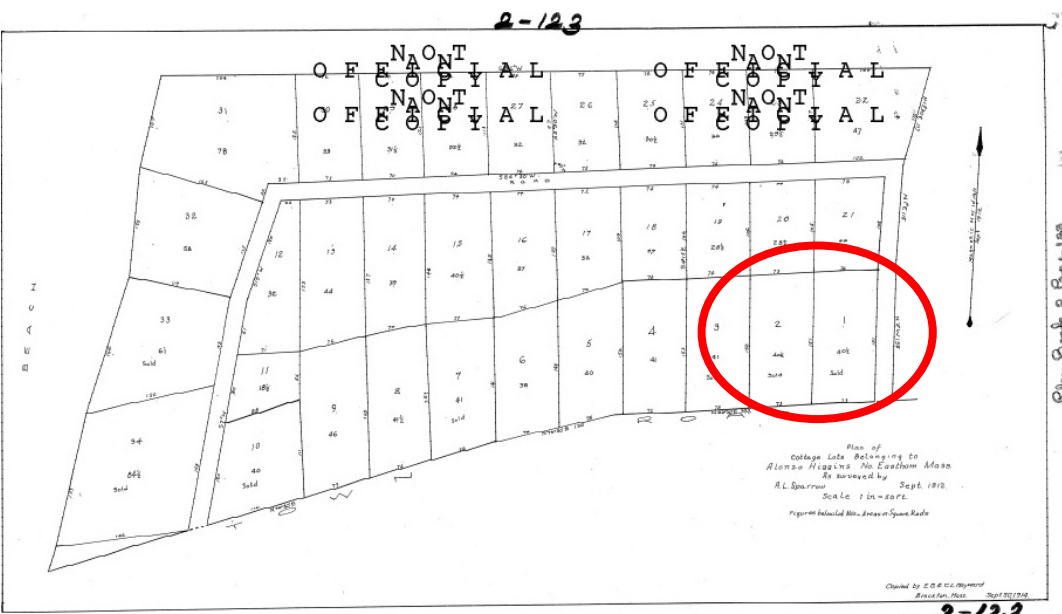


Figure 2. September 1912 Plan of Cottage Lots for Alonzo Higgins (circle to Lots 2 and 3 added).